


# New Lenox studies roundabout intersection

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 New Lenox approved a traffic study at the busy offset intersection of Cedar Road and Haven Avenue to see if it is feasible to turn the S-curve intersection into a single-lane roundabout.

The analysis will be completed by Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd., at a cost not to exceed \$7,764.

Village officials have explored other options, but this is the safest one, said village administrator Kurt Carroll, adding that they would seek grant money for a roundabout, that could potentially pay for 80 percent of the cost.

A roundabout is a circular intersection, usually without traffic signals, which allows motorists to move in a counter-clockwise direction around an island at a slower speed, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Roundabouts have been proven safer and more efficient than other types of circular intersections, but it doesn't have to be a perfect circle and can be adapted to its specific location, the USDOT website said.

In a recent board meeting, New Lenox trustees approved a contract with Burke to include current traffic counts and projected traffic counts based on the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's 2050 transportation plan.

The study, expected to be completed in January, would determine if a single lane roundabout would meet the state's level of service requirements, and design a concept based on that data.

Whether additional land would need to be acquired would be determined in a future engineering study, according to CBBEL's proposal.

In September, the village demolished the 171-year-old, two-story home that it owned on the southwest corner of that intersection.

Mayor Tim Baldermann said then he was talking to the owners of the Oral Motor Clinic, a privately owned center for speech and language therapy on the northeast corner, about purchasing that parcel. While Cedar and Haven is a heavily-traveled intersection, there have been no serious accidents here, as drivers tend to be cautious as they navigate through it. Those unfamiliar with it may find it confusing, Baldermann said. Trustee Dave Smith said in a video of the Nov. 26 board meeting that he has driven through roundabouts, and it is "the way to go."

"It certainly is safer, but there is a learning curve," said Baldermann in the video.

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